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ABSTRACT

This paper provides information on dropouts and dropout prevention in Cleveland public schools. It is divided into five sections, which provide, respectively: (1) brief descriptions of nine prevention programs; (2) an operational definition of dropouts; (3) 1984-85 dropout data (by cohort survival in Grades 9, 10, 11, and 12, at the city level with a district summary; (4) program evaluation abstracts of the Upward Reach project and the Internal Suspension Room Project); and (5) names and addresses of two contact persons. (KH)

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CLEVELAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS DROPOUT PROGRAMS ANNUAL REPORT

1984 - 1985

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A.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

A-7 Follow-up Program - - A-7 referrals are made for all students with chronic discipline and attendance problems. This pilot program was instituted to provide follow-up contact to these high-risk youth.

Attendance Services - - The District employs twelve attendance workers to contact the homes of chronic poor attenders.

Counseling Programs - - A comprehensive counseling and career guidance program is operational for all students in grades K-12.

Project Perform - - The District's effective schools project. Efforts are underway to expand this project district-wide based upon preliminary achievement data.

Upward Reach - - An intervention program designed to provide individual counseling, agency referral, and part-time jobs to students returning to school from agencies of the judicial system.

Workin' - - A program in which at-risk students contract to meet expectations related to behavior. Jobs are provided as an incentive in this effort to retain students in the District.

Youth Resource Centers - - A junior high school intervention program which combines the efforts of the school district, the Cleveland Bar Association, Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court, Cleveland Police Department, Neighborhood Centers Association, the Department of Human Services, and the Task Force on Violent Crime. The Centers focus on students who demonstrate chronic behavior, truancy, and academic achievement problems.

In-School Suspension Rooms - - A secondary school project designed to reduce the incidence of out-of-school suspensions while addressing behavioral and motivational problems.

Comprehensive Student Attendance Plan - - A plan designed to lend consistency to individual school and district efforts to address the issue of student attendance. Critical components of the plan include: goals and objectives; interdisciplinary attendance teams; staff development; accurate record-keeping and reporting; students incentives; parent and community outreach; and monitoring and evaluation.

B.
Operational Definition

Dropouts are pupils who were enrolled in a school district but did not return to school at the beginning of the school year or did not complete the school year in question because of withdrawal to other than an educational program for which the State Board of Education prescribes minimum standards. Dropouts would include pupils withdrawn for the following reasons:

- work permits;
- over 18 year of age;
- armed services;
- runaway;
- cannot be located by school district standards;
- institutional placement without a program for which the State Board of Education prescribes standards;
- education without verified enrollment; and
- expulsion if not required to re-enroll because of being at least 18 years of age.

Specifically excluded from the dropout enumeration are pupils withdrawn for the following reasons:

- death;
- illness;
- approved home instruction;
- transfer to another school district or education program for which the State Board of Education prescribes minimum standards;
- institutional placement with a program for which the State Board of Education prescribes standards; and
- adult education where enrollment is verified.

CLEVELAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Dropouts
Annual Report
1984-1985

Dropouts by Cohort Survival
9th Grade
Table 2

	Number			Percent of Enrollment		
Males	Black	Other	Total	Black	Other	Total
Riders	26	48	74	2.6	8.0	4.6
Walkers	44	60	104	3.7	9.5	5.7
Total	70	108	178	3.2	8.8	5.2
Females						
Riders	23	54	77	2.2	10.7	5.0
Walkers	43	37	80	3.9	6.7	4.8
Total	66	91	157	3.1	8.6	4.9
Total						
Riders	49	102	151	2.4	9.3	4.8
Walkers	87	97	184	3.8	8.2	5.3
Total	136	199	335	3.1	8.7	5.1

Dropouts by Cohort Survival
10th Grade
Table 3

	Number			Percent of Enrollment		
Males	Black	Other	Total	Black	Other	Total
Riders	115	87	202	11.2	17.8	13.3
Walkers	328	216	544	20.2	28.1	22.8
Total	443	303	746	16.7	24.1	19.1
Females						
Riders	79	68	147	9.2	18.2	11.9
Walkers	190	127	317	13.5	18.9	15.2
Total	269	195	464	11.8	18.6	14.0
Total						
Riders	194	155	349	10.3	18.0	12.7
Walkers	518	343	861	17.1	23.8	19.2
Total	712	498	1210	14.5	21.6	16.7

CLEVELAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Dropouts
Annual Report
1984-1985

Dropouts by Cohort Survival
11th Grade
Table 4

	Number			Percent of Enrollment		
Males	Black	Other	Total	Black	Other	Total
Riders	113	50	163	12.4	17.5	13.6
Walkers	198	107	305	19.0	23.0	20.2
Total	311	157	468	15.9	20.9	17.3
Females						
Riders	65	35	100	7.4	15.0	9.0
Walkers	135	70	205	14.0	16.9	14.9
Total	200	105	305	10.8	16.2	12.2
Total						
Riders	178	85	263	9.9	16.4	11.4
Walkers	333	177	510	16.6	20.1	17.7
Total	511	262	773	13.4	18.7	14.9

Dropouts by Cohort Survival
12th Grade
Table 5

	Number			Percent of Enrollment		
Males	Black	Other	Total	Black	Other	Total
Riders	69	30	99	11.0	14.2	11.8
Walkers	188	82	270	20.9	21.6	21.1
Total	257	112	369	16.8	19.0	17.4
Females						
Riders	61	32	93	8.3	18.2	10.2
Walkers	121	53	174	14.1	14.6	14.2
Total	182	85	267	11.4	15.7	12.5
Total						
Riders	130	62	192	9.6	16.0	11.0
Walkers	309	135	444	17.5	18.2	17.7
Total	439	197	636	14.1	17.4	15.0

06/24/86 Research and Analysis

CLEVELAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Analysis of the Annual Dropout Report suggested that during the 1984-85 school year over 3,100 students dropped out of the Cleveland Public Schools. Of that number, 2,089 or 67 percent were classified as walkers. The other 1,026 or 33 percent were students who were transported to school. Males constituted the larger number, 1,859 or approximately 60 percent of the total number of dropouts during the period under study. The tables below provide graphic illustration of the scope of dropout problems by grade levels, males, females, riders and walkers for the district during the 1984-85 school year.

DROPOUTS

District Summary
1984-85

Dropouts by Cohort Survival
Table 1

	Number			Percent of Enrollment		
Males	Black	Other	Total	Black	Other	Total
Riders	345	239	584	2.8	4.0	3.2
Walkers	781	494	1275	5.8	7.3	6.3
Total	1126	733	1859	4.3	5.7	4.8
Females						
Riders	237	205	442	2.0	4.1	2.7
Walkers	511	303	814	4.0	5.1	4.4
Total	748	508	1256	3.1	4.7	3.6
Total						
Riders	582	444	1026	2.4	4.0	2.9
Walkers	1292	797	2089	4.9	6.3	5.4
Total	1874	1241	3115	3.7	5.2	4.2

06/24/86 Research and Analysis

City Wide Data: Drop Out Due to Pregnancy, Race, Grade, and Age

Code	Race	N	%
1	Native American	0	0
2	White	60	24
3	Black	186	73
4	Asian American	0	0
5	Hispanic	8	3
Total		254	100

Grade	N	%
6	2	1
7	10	3
8	33	13
9	74	29
10	71	28
11	44	17
12	20	8
Total	254	100

Age	N	%
12	1	1
13	2	1
14	22	9
15	46	18
16	85	33
17	74	29
18	20	8
19	2	1
20	2	1
Total	254	100

UPWARD REACH

1984-85 Final Evaluation

PURPOSE AND OVERVIEW

The Upward Reach project was implemented in all twelve Cleveland Public Schools to provide intense support by means of educational, behavioral and vocational counseling for students who are returned to school from court agencies. Twelve Counselor Aides are assigned to twelve high schools on a full-time basis. These staff provide students with individual counseling services and with referrals to other appropriate school community agencies. Additionally, tenth grade students were provided part-time after-school jobs tied directly to attendance and grades. Wages were provided by the project to motivate these students to the benefits of schooling.

SERVICE SUMMARY

Pupils Served: 1,168 Grades Served: 8-12 Years in Operation: 8

Schools: 12 public Staffing: 1 Education Program Manager, FT
12 Counselor Aides, FT
1 Clerk, FT

Total Project Allocation: $410,337 Per Pupil Cost: $351.00

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Project services were delivered as proposed to students identified as drop-out prone or as institutional returnees. Services included counseling in educational and vocational planning, academic and social skill development and community resources. Staff conferred with parents, helped students enroll in special programs and find jobs, and provided liaison services among students, teachers and parole officers.

Two project objectives were achieved, one dealing with student satisfaction with their Upward Reach experience and the other dealing with a paid summer work experience for participants. One objective was not achieved: the improvement in attendance. Student opinions of the project were high but project treatment only had a positive effect on rates of attendance of eleventh to twelfth grade participants.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations for the future included continuing the employment program tied to school attendance and grades, initiating peer tutoring services to students in grades eight through ten, and investigating the possibility of extending the summer school tutor program into the school year.

Disadvantaged Pupil Program Fund. Evaluation Abstracts 1984-85.
06/24/86 Research and Analysis

DROPOUT PREVENTION: INTERNAL SUSPENSION ROOM

1984-85 DPPF Evaluation

PURPOSE AND OVERVIEW

The Internal Suspension Room (ISR) Project was designed to provide a school-supported alternative to out-of-school suspensions for less serious student disciplinary infractions. Operating in 40 secondary school buildings, each internal suspension room was staffed by an experienced teacher trained to help a suspended student clarify the nature of the violation and relate the situation to student rights and responsibilities in the school. Students assigned to the program were able to continue their educational programs and have the opportunity to change inappropriate behavior. Major goals of the program included reducing the suspension rate for participating schools and reducing the number of students suspended more than once.

SERVICE SUMMARY

Pupils Served: 10,884 (Duplicate Count)
Grades Served: 7-12
Years in Operation: 2

Schools: 40

Staffing:
1 Program Manager, FT
40 ISR Teachers, FT
45 ISR Relief Teachers, PT (7.5 FTE)
1 Clerk, FT

Total DPPF Cost: $1,802,346
Per Pupil Cost: $166

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The project has attained all four objectives. Overall out-of-school suspension rates have dropped more than 10% in most schools. Less than 50% of students served in the ISR have had repeat assignments there. More than 75% of the assigned students have performed at a satisfactory level or better, as judged by ISR and classroom teachers. Project teachers have given higher ratings for the project inservice program than specified in the objective. Additional findings indicate that project schools used the ISR for more than half of their total suspensions and days suspended. Variances between the ratio of Black student suspensions and Black student enrollment for both total suspensions and days suspended are well within Remedial Order guidelines.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Consider alternative disciplinary measures to reduce all suspensions.
- Explore procedures for containing the rate of repeat suspensions.
- Involve classroom teachers in the evaluation of ISR suspendees.
- Reconcile manual and automated data reporting procedures.
- Examine suspension practices with the intention of ensuring they equitable application of the Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities

E.

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